

Economics 2010-300

Principles of Microeconomics

Spring 2025

Class Information

Location: VAC 1B20

Schedule: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:05 AM - 9:55 AM

Website: Canvas

Instructor

Professor: Ernesto Rivera Mora

Office: ECON 04B

Office Hours: Tuesday 2-3pm and Friday 10 - 11 am

Email: econ.2010.colorado@gmail.com

Teaching Assistants

Name	Section	Recitation Room	Schedule
Levy Sayon, Pedro	Section 311	Econ Bldg 205	M 1:25pm-2:15pm
	Section 312	Econ Bldg 205	M 3:35pm-4:25pm
	Section 314	Econ Building 205	W 8am-8:50am
Rachmanto, Aditya	Section 315	Econ Building 219	T 8am-8:50am
	Section 318	Econ Building 205	Th 1:25pm-2:15pm
	Section 319	Ketchum Arts-Sci Bldg 1B60	F 2:30pm-3:20pm

Contact Information

For questions about grading, course material, or other concerns, please email your section's Teaching Assistant:

- **Sections 311, 312 and 314:** pedro.levysayon@colorado.edu
- **Sections 315, 318 and 319:** aditya.rachmanto@colorado.edu

Email Guidelines: When emailing, please start the subject line with "ECON2010" and use your CU email address to avoid spam filters. Before sending an email, check the syllabus and Canvas first, as most questions are already answered there. You can expect responses within 1 week. Please do not email us about class/recitation absences, (You only need 80% of the participation to get

the participation points.) If your TA is unable to address your question, you may contact me at econ.2010.colorado@gmail.com

Course Description

Microeconomics is the study of agents making decisions given the limited resources available to them. You will see that this description can be applied to many different settings in the world as well as in your own life. We will examine basic concepts of microeconomics to study the behavior and the interactions of individuals, firms, and government. Topics include determining supply and demand, how consumers and businesses make decisions, how markets work, and how government actions affect markets.

Course requirements: There are no required courses for Econ 2010; however, basic mathematical/algebra skills are necessary. In addition, you will need to understand how to make and read graphs.

Attendance: Attendance is essential for success in this course. The material highlighted in lecture will be most important for doing well on exams and problem sets. Out of courtesy for your instructor and your classmates, arrive to class on time. Please silence your cell phones during class.

Core Curriculum: This course is approved for the arts and sciences core curriculum area of contemporary studies.

Learning Objectives: At the end of this course, you should have a general understanding of microeconomics and how to apply economic thinking to everyday decisions. You should be able to use models developed this semester to:

- Understand how the principles of opportunity cost, rationality of agents, marginal analysis.
- Understand how the behavior consumers, firms, and governments affect markets and the allocation of limited resources.
- Analyze how markets work, including the forces that drive supply and demand, market efficiency, and the effects of government policies.

Textbook

We will use Principles of Microeconomics by Betsey Stevenson and Justin Wolfers, 2nd edition. We will be reading an eBook version of this text through the Macmillan Achieve platform, so you do not need to buy a hard copy. You have the responsibility to read the relevant sections of the textbook before attending lecture, as it will aid in your understanding of the material.

CU Book Access: CU Book Access, CU Boulder's equitable access course materials program, provides undergraduate students access to all of their required course materials before the first day of class for a flat-rate price. The cost of the program for Spring 2025 will be around \$269 (plus tax) and is added directly to your Student Tuition and Fee billing statement. You do not need to do anything to sign up, you are automatically enrolled. This cost covers all of your required written

materials for your classes. Materials in this program are provided in a digital first format on or before the first day of class via Canvas. This gives students easy access and a predictable cost to their materials each semester.

Important: If you drop out from the class materials you will lose access to Achieve, and will lose access to the platform where you can submit your homework. (Hence, losing these points.)

Success in This Course

To succeed in this course, I strongly encourage you to do the following:

- Come to class & recitation
- Ask questions and visit office hours
- Read the relevant chapters and work on learning curve activities before class
- Complete all homework
- Check **Canvas** regularly
- Find study partners

If you start to fall behind, seek help immediately. It's much easier to get back on track early in the semester than right before the final exam. CU Boulder offers many resources to support your academic success:

- Visit the **Learning Resource Center** for tutoring, study groups, and language assistance
- Schedule an appointment with the **Writing Center** for help with any written assignments
- Utilize **Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS)** if you're feeling overwhelmed or stressed
- Connect with your academic advisor or the **University Exploration & Advising Center** for guidance
- Take advantage of the office hours and TA help sessions

Remember, asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness. Don't hesitate to use the many support services available to you as a CU Boulder student. [\[Link\]](#)

Grade Breakdown

Component	Weight
Lecture Participation	5%
Recitation Activities	5%
Pre-Lecture Learning Curve	5%
Chapter Homework	15%
Two Midterm Exams	40%
Final Exam	30%

The following spreadsheet shows how to compute your grade: [\[Link\]](#)

Grade	Range
A	93% - 100.00%
A-	90% - 92.99%
B+	87% - 89.99%
B	83% - 86.99%
B-	80% - 82.99%
C+	77% - 79.99%
C	73% - 76.99%
C-	70% - 72.99%
D+	67% - 69.99%
D	63% - 66.99%
D-	60% - 62.99%
F	0% - 59.99%

Lecture Participation (5% total)

This course will use iClicker Cloud for in-class participation. The platform is free for CU Boulder students. Due to spotty WiFi in the classroom, it is my recommendation that everyone purchases a physical iClicker remote. These are available at the bookstore. The course is set up that mobile devices are also allowed, however, use them at your own risk. We will not be responsible for missed questions due to you not being able to get on the WiFi.

Each day, make sure you have set your iClicker to the proper frequency for the classroom (BA). To receive the participation of the day if you respond in at least 50% of questions of the day. Students not in attendance or not answering any questions receive a 0 for the day. You will obtain the 5 percentage points of the grade if you participate in 80% of the classes.

You'll need to set up a CU-provided iClicker account, which integrates with Canvas. To get started, create an account at <https://student.iclicker.com/>, obtain a remote or download the app, and visit <https://oit.colorado.edu/services/learning-spaces-technology/cuclickers-iclickers> for assistance.

Recitation Activities (5% total)

Most weeks in recitation we will have activities to illustrate the concepts learned in lectures. These may be experiments/games done in person in the classroom or practice assignments associated with the results of the activities. To receive all five percentage points you require attendance of at least 80% of the recitation sessions.

Pre-Lecture Learning Curve (5%)

Through the Achieve online system (achieve.macmillanlearning.com) you will submit a pre-lecture assignment called Learning Curve before lecture each week. The assignments are intended to help you come prepared to lecture by asking you questions to review the chapter readings.

Points For each assignment you must score a certain number of “points” before earning credit for competition. Answering questions correctly on the first try gives you the most points. You will get fewer points for additional attempts. So, the more effort you put in to respond correctly, the faster you will reach the required number of points. (Blindly guessing will take longer to complete the task.)

Deadlines These assignments will be due on **9:00 am** (right before class in which we start the chapter). You need to track Canvas and the Achieve platform to see the due dates of each chapter.

No late assignments are accepted. In particular, there are no exceptions for technical problems. It will be your full responsibility to begin each assignment early enough so that you can deal with delays or technical problems. To compensate for this measure, I will drop your two lowest scores. So, if you complete all but two tasks, you will receive all the points. **Important:** I and the TA’s cannot assist you with technical problems with Achieve.

Chapter Homework (15% total)

You will have weekly homework assignments through the Achieve online system. Additionally, there will be a Math Review Homework at the beginning of the semester.

Questions Each homework assignment is composed of many questions. You can attempt each question as many times as wish. However, each attempt will have a 5% grade penalty. This is to incentivize spending the time to think through a problem instead of blindly guessing. In the same way as the pre-lecture exercises, your two lowest homework scores will be dropped. **Important:** We cannot assist you with technical problems with Achieve.

Deadlines Chapter homework will be due **Sundays at 11:59pm**. (Some weeks will have two chapter assignments.) No late homework assignments are accepted, so you should begin your assignments early in the week in case you have any problems. To compensate, your two lowest homework scores will be dropped.

Midterm Exams (40%)

Exams will be held on **Friday, February 14th and Wednesday, March 19th in person** during the regularly scheduled class time. Each exam will consist of a set of multiple choice questions. These are taken on paper during class time. You are responsible to bring a pencil and an eraser. Midterms cannot be rescheduled or retaken (even in the case of illness). To compensate for this, I will drop your lowest midterm score and assign the highest score to both of them. For example, if you miss one midterm and you get 82/100 points in the second. You get 82/100 points on both of them.

Cumulative Final Exam (30%)

The cumulative final exam will be held on **Tuesday, May 6 (1:30–4 p.m.)** in person. It will cover information from all of the material from the course. There is no makeup final exam. You must take the final exam as scheduled. However, per university policy, if you have three midterms scheduled from the same day and ours is the last one, you will be allowed to take it on a different day.

Rounding

There is no rounding. This rule holds regardless of how close you are to a grade cutoff. For example, 89.99 is a B+ and will not be rounded to an A-.

Recitation

Recitation sessions are an integral part of this course reinforcing concepts learned in lectures. Attendance is mandatory and will partially contribute to your grade. These sessions will be led by Teaching Assistants (TAs) who will guide you through various activities and problem-solving exercises. Make sure to come prepared and actively participate to get the most out of these sessions.

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Levy Sayon, Pedro	Section 311	Econ Bldg 205	M 1:25pm-2:15pm
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	Section 318	Econ Building 205	Th 1:25pm-2:15pm
	Section 319	Ketchum Arts-Sci Bldg 1B60	F 2:30pm-3:20pm

Please note that this schedule is fixed for the semester.

Office Hours

I encourage you to visit the office hours provided by me and the teaching assistants. Office hours are times specifically set aside to be available to answer questions. In a large class like this, individual appointments outside of office hours are not possible. Zoom meetings are available by appointment but must be scheduled in advance. I may be available at other times of the week, but with a large class it will not be possible to make separate individual appointments for everyone. In general, any of us will be able to help answer any questions.

If you would like help with any assignments, we are glad to provide it. We only ask that you already attempted to work out the solution yourself, rather than showing up with a blank assignment.

Name	Role	Office Hours	Location
Rivera Mora, Ernesto	Teacher	Tu 2-3 PM F 10-11 AM	ECON 04B
Levy Sayon, Pedro	TA	M 2:30-3:30 PM Tu 11 AM-12 PM W 9-11 AM	ECON 307
Rachmanto, Aditya	TA	Tu 9-10 AM Th 12-1 PM	ECON 309C

Course Topics

Topic	Chapter
Core Principles	Chapter 1
Think Like a Buyer	Chapter 2
Think Like a Seller	Chapter 3
Equilibriums in Markets	Chapter 4
Elasticity	Chapter 5
Government Interventions in Markets	Chapter 6
Welfare Economics: Surplus & Market Efficiency	Chapter 7
Gains from Trade	Chapter 8
International Trade	Chapter 9
Externalities	Chapter 10
Labor Market	Chapter 11
Inequality	Chapter 13
Market Structure & Market Power	Chapter 14
Entry & Exit	Chapter 15

Important Dates

Event	Date
First Day of Classes	Monday, January 13
No classes: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	Monday, January 20
Exam 1 (Chapters 1-5)	Friday, February 14
Exam 2 (Chapters 6-10)	Wednesday, March 19
Spring Break - No Classes	March 24-28
Last Day of Classes	Wednesday, April 30
No classes: Reading Day	Friday, May 2
Final Exam (Cumulative)	Tuesday, May 6 (1:30–4 p.m.)

Course Schedule

Week	Events	Recitation Activity
Week 1 Jan 13-17	Jan 13 (Mon): First Day of Classes	No recitation
Week 2 Jan 20-24	Jan 20 (Mon): Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (no classes)	Activity 1: Math Review
Week 3 Jan 27-31		Activity 2: Drawing your own supply/demand curve
Week 4 Feb 3-7		Activity 3: Market Experiment (first part)
Week 5 Feb 10-14	Feb 14 (Fri): Exam 1 (Chapters 1-5)	Activity 3: Market Experiment (second part)
Week 6 Feb 17-21		Go over Exam 1
Week 7 Feb 24-28		Activity 4: Surplus Analysis
Week 8 Mar 3-7		Activity 5: Tax Analysis
Week 9 Mar 10-14		Activity 6: Comparative Advantage
Week 10 Mar 17-21	Mar 19 (Wed): Exam 2 (Chapters 6-10)	Activity 7: International Trade
SB Week Mar 24-28	Spring Break - Rest as much as possible!	
Week 11 Mar 31-Apr 4		Go over Exam 2
Week 12 Apr 7-11		Activity 8: Externalities
Week 13 Apr 14-18		Activity 9: Labor Markets
Week 14 Apr 21-25		Activity 10: Production Costs
Week 15 Apr 28-May 2	Apr 30 (Wed): Last Day of Classes May 2 (Fri): Reading Day (No Classes)	Final Exam Review
Finals Week May 5-9	Tuesday, May 6 (1:30–4 p.m.): Final Exam	

Technical Issues with Achieve

Achieve, our online learning platform, may occasionally present technical challenges. To ensure

smooth operation, use an updated Chrome browser on a reliable internet connection. Regularly clear your cache and allow pop-ups for the Achieve website. Familiarize yourself with the platform well before assignment deadlines. If you face an issue, please refer to the troubleshooting steps below.

Step 1: Self-Troubleshoot

- Use Google Chrome
- Allow pop-ups
- Clear cache/cookies
- Use a desktop or laptop computer
- Ensure reliable internet connection

Step 2: Contact Customer Support If self-troubleshooting doesn't resolve the issue, please contact Achieve customer support at <https://macmillan.force.com/macmillanlearning/s/>.

University Policies

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, marital status, political affiliation, or political philosophy. For more information, see the classroom behavior policy, Student Code of Conduct, and the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance.

Accommodation for Disabilities, Temporary Medical Conditions, and Medical Isolation

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the Disability Services website. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or DSinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see Temporary Medical Conditions on the Disability Services website.

Preferred Student Names and Pronouns

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code may include but are not limited to: plagiarism (including use of paper writing services or technology [such as essay bots]), cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. Understanding the course's syllabus is a vital part in adhering to the Honor Code.

All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution (StudentConduct@colorado.edu). Students found responsible for violating the Honor Code will be assigned resolution outcomes from Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution as well as be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Visit [Honor Code](#) for more information on the academic integrity policy.

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits protected-class discrimination and harassment, sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu.

Faculty and graduate instructors must inform OIEC when made aware of incidents related to these policies. This ensures that individuals impacted receive outreach about resolution options and support resources.

Accommodation for Religious Obligations

Campus policy requires faculty to provide reasonable accommodations for students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please communicate the need for a religious accommodation in a timely manner. If you need a religious accommodation, please email me at least 2 weeks before the date of the conflict to make alternative arrangements.

Mental Health and Wellness

The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to the well-being of all students. If you are struggling with personal stressors, mental health or substance use concerns that are impacting academic or daily life, please contact Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) located in C4C or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7.

Free and unlimited telehealth is also available through Academic Live Care. The Academic Live Care site also provides information about additional wellness services on campus that are available to students.

Disclaimer

This syllabus is subject to change. Any modifications will be announced in class and posted on the course website.